

What's New in the MPDC

AUGUST 26, 2002

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

For college-age students and parents who may be concerned about campus safety this fall, the MPDC has published a comprehensive "Campus Safety" booklet containing safety tips and other important phone numbers and other resources. These booklets may be picked up at the security office of most DC colleges and universities or by calling the Community Outreach section at 727-0783. The booklet is also available online at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/campus.shtm

With summer coming to a close and a new school year about to begin (September 3 for DC Public Schools, earlier for some private schools), the MPDC would like to dedicate this week's *What's New in the MPDC* to parents and students in the DC area. Many parents will be driving children to and from school or day-care. Remember that the speed limit in school zones is 15 mph when children are present. And safety experts strongly recommend that children should not be moved into regular seatbelts until they are at least four feet, nine inches (4' 9") tall, weigh about 80 pounds and are approximately eight

years old. Additionally, children are reminded to cross the street only at crosswalks and to always observe and obey the instructions of crossing guards. Basic car, school, bus and pedestrian safety tips are available on-line at:

A variety of school safety resources are available on the MPDC website:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/schoolsafetylinks.shtm

mpdc.qc.dc.gov/info/family/family.shtm

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Along with a new school year comes the hope of cooler weather... and the rumble of yellow school buses. Each year, parents should remind their children about the importance of school bus safety, especially knowing the "danger zone" and following some basic rules to keep them in the line of sight of nearby drivers. Some simple tips include teaching children to take five giant steps as soon as they leave the bus, and to cross in front of the bus so that they may maintain eye contact with the driver. It is also important for motorists to know that they, too, have a

responsibility. Drivers are reminded to share the road with school buses, and stop when the bus stops to take on or let off passengers.

In an effort to promote seatbelt safety in the District of Columbia, a new program – Click It, or Ticket— has been implemented. Get information at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/clickit.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/schoolbus.shtm

On a bus as well as in a car, child passenger safety is important. Get details at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/childseat.shtm

WEEKDAY CURFEW BEGINS AN HOUR EARLIER

Back-to-school also means back to school-time curfews. MPDC reminds young people and their families that DC's teen curfew begins an hour earlier on week nights. Beginning Labor Day weekend, curfew for young people under the age of 17 begins at 11:00 pm on Sunday through Thursday nights, and continues until 6:00 am the following day. Under the Juvenile Curfew Act of 1995, persons under the age of 17 cannot remain in or on a street, park or other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on other premises of any establishment within DC during curfew hours, unless they are involved in certain exempted activities. The law applies to all young people in the District during curfew hours, regardless of whether they live inside or outside the city. The law provides penalties for chronic offenders – both young people who violate curfew and parents or legal guardians who knowingly permit a minor to violate the law. Penalties for young people include up to 25 hours of community service. A parent or legal guardian who violates the law faces up to a \$500 fine, community service or both. Information about the District's curfew law, including alternative resources for young people is available on-line at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/curfew.shtm

FIRST DISTRICT HOSTS BACK-TO-SCHOOL, PUBLIC SAFETY AWARENESS DAY

The 1st District will be holding its 2nd annual Back-to-School and Public Safety Awareness Day on Saturday, September 7, from noon-4:00 pm at the Randall Recreation Center, 1 Eye St., SW. Join 1st District members and special guest Justine Love and the folks from WPGC 95.5 radio for a day of fun activities, health information and MPDC exhibits. In preparation for the event, the 1st District Chief's Advisory Council is asking for contributions of school supplies to give away during the event. Items such as paper, pens, pencils, lunch boxes, calculators, backpacks, etc. would be greatly appreciated.

For more information about donating items or attending the event, contact Sgt. Rene Davis at 202-727-4611.

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

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